

From: [Eoc, Epahq](#)  
To: [Eoc, Epahq](#)  
Subject: EOC Spot Report: Region 6, Post-Tropical Cyclone Harvey - Update #21  
Date: Friday, September 8, 2017 7:49:53 PM  
Attachments: [pastedImage.png](#)

---

**This report is being sent as a bcc to prevent accidental Reply to All messages.**  
**UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**



**EOC Spot Report: Region 6, Post-Tropical Cyclone Harvey - Update #21**

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

**Report as of September 8, 2017 at 2050 ET**

**Overview:** Hurricane Harvey made landfall at 2300 ET, August 26, as a Category 4 storm near Rockport. Harvey was downgraded to a Category 1 Harvey stalled over southeastern TX. Response efforts associated with Hurricane Harvey continue. River and bayous will continue to fall below major flood stage, but long-duration flooding will affect response activities.

**State, Local and other Federal Agency Actions:** FEMA has activated the NRCC at Level 1 with all Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) and deployed National and several regional Incident Management Assistance Teams (IMATs). FEMA's Region 6 RRCC is also at Level 1.

TCEQ will expand to 24-hour operations; Region 6 staff are being added to the State Operations Center.

**EPA Actions:** EPA's Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) is not operational today due to a technical malfunction. Personnel are working to make repairs. Air monitoring in southeast Houston near multiple chemical facilities is ongoing by EPA using hand-held equipment.

EPA released data generated from the sampling of flood water and ambient air during the Arkema fires. No detections were above levels of concern outside the 1.5-mile evacuation area. EPA/TCEQ/City of Houston also released TAGA air monitoring data from the Manchester neighborhood in Houston. Air monitoring results indicate no chemical concentration above the state selected screening levels. EPA continues to investigate complaints in the area.

A total of 24 Hazard Evaluation Teams completed assessments of Austin, Waller, Liberty, and Chambers, Fort Bend, Wharton, Matagorda, and Brazoria Counties (100% completion); and Montgomery, Colorado and Walker (road/flooding) Counties (90% completion). The Group will continue assessing Galveston and Harris Counties. The Group will also continue the evaluation of targets, monitor recovery operations and respond to any reports of active pollution discharges.

EPA activated and deployed the N-IMAT (highly skilled response personnel from Regions 3, 4, and 5) to advise and assist R6 with response activities. N-IMAT is now located in Corpus Christi. The N-IMAT completed its assignment to establish an initial structure to respond to

Hurricane Harvey. Eleven key leadership positions were established and are now staffed by other staff allowing initial N-IMAT staff to demobilize.

**Drinking Water / Wastewater Assessments:** EPA is supporting drinking water and wastewater system assessments at the TCEQ Austin phone bank including assistance with data flow and technical regulatory questions. In addition, drinking water and wastewater assessment teams are currently established in Houston. Current Houston response activities consist of 14 EPA personnel conducting drinking water and wastewater assessments in the Harris County area.

TCEQ and EPA have completed surveys of 4,852 drinking water facilities and 2,908 wastewater facilities in the impacted area. A Drinking Water Technical Support Team was deployed to provide technical support to City of Beaumont Water System.

### **EPA Laboratory/Analytical Services**

EPA's Houston laboratory reopened on September 7<sup>th</sup>. The laboratory and office building were not damaged. The mobile laboratory and response vehicles are secure and will be deployed as road conditions allow.

### **Waivers**

EPA continues to receive and approve, as appropriate, fuel waiver requests. EPA has extended the current multi-state fuel waiver to September 26<sup>th</sup>.

EPA has issued a No Action Assurance for the Use of Vapor Recovery Systems in Texas related to Hurricane Harvey (September 1, 2017). EPA will exercise its discretion not to pursue enforcement for violations of the vapor recovery requirements for fuel loading and unloading under 40 CFR Part 60 Subpart XX and Part 63 Subparts, R, Y, CC, BBBB, and 30 Texas Administrative Code sections 115.212, .214.

The Internal Revenue Service expanded the red dye fuel waiver to cover the entire state of Texas, not just the 110 counties as before.

DOT Pipeline and Hazardous Material Safety Administration (PHMSA) has issued an emergency waiver order to assist EPA's efforts to remove, transport and dispose of hazardous materials as part of its response to Hurricane Harvey. The order will be published in the Federal Register and is effective immediately. PHMSA is available to provide technical assistance.

Aerial application for vector control is scheduled to begin the night of September 9, 2017.

TCEQ has the authority to waive certain requirements to allow open burning of woody debris from Hurricane Harvey aftermath. The State can approve open burning of debris, consistent with guidance provided by the TCEQ. The EPA has reviewed the emergency hurricane debris management guidance on the TCEQ website and concurs with its use. EPA has recommended the State consider particulate monitoring (PM10) in areas of temporary debris management sites, where practicable, to capture PM10 associated with burning activities.

Today, the U.S Department of Justice (DOJ) wrote the City of Houston and agreed to be flexible in resuming and completing the negotiations with the city related to their Clean Water Act sanitary sewer violations.

EPA has determined that most of the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) requests for flexibility in allowances and procedural changes to the State Revolving Loan Fund program so

funds can be used to address immediate recovery and future resiliency efforts is acceptable.

EPA has received notifications from 8 companies covering 12 Louisiana/Texas gulf facilities that impending storms may cause a delay or impediment to performance in complying with provisions of their Consent Decrees and anticipates that the 25-27 refineries in the gulf will be submitting their formal force majeure claims related to Harvey.

### **Superfund NPL Sites**

EPA has conducted Rapid Response Assessments at all 43 Federal Superfund sites in the impacted areas using aerial images as well as direct contact with companies who are responsible for on-going cleanup activities. EPA has determined that 41 Superfund sites in the area do not show damage or excessive flooding associated with Harvey and two sites are still in need of site inspection. EPA determined that two more sites (San Jacinto River Waste Pits and US Oil Recovery) required further inspection.

- San Jacinto: EPA Remedial Project Manager and the EPA Region 6 DiveTeam are onsite and overseeing the assessment. The EPA dive team is on-site and integrated in the cap survey efforts. Sampling of sediment and surface water sample was completed on September 7, 2017.
- US Oil: On, September 7, 2017, a total of 16 vacuum truck loads of water (approximately 80,000 gallons) were removed and shipped offsite for disposal. The potentially responsible party continues operating pumping equipment and a storage tank to maintain and control overflow. Sampling of the lift station water continues. In addition, soil and ground water samples were collected September 8, 2017. No sheen or odor was observed in the overflowing water.

On September 5, 2017, EPA initiated sampling at NPL sites in Texas. EPA will sample all 34 Texas NPL sites to confirm no releases. Sampling will be completed by September 11, 2017. Results will be delivered to the Region by September 14, 2017.

**Media Interest:** High

**The HQ EOC will continue to monitor and provide updates as needed**

**UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

Nancy Abrams, Senior Watch Officer  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Headquarters Emergency Operations Center  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20460  
202-564-3850  
<mailto:eoc.epahq@epa.gov>